

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH].

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at <http://www.sarl.org.za> while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnwsbulletin.wordpress.com>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR THE SARL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

THE SANDTON ARC POWER HOUR TECH TALK ON 23 FEBRUARY
and

A CLANDESTINE RADIO STATION BROADCASTING ON USB

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin this bulletin with news of a silent key.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of William (Bill) Hodges, ZS2ABZ went silent on Saturday 12 February 2022 after a long illness. Bill was licensed in the early 1980's as ZR2AAN and even though he suffered from dyslexia continued his pursuit of a ZS call by working long and hard to pass his 12 wpm CW Test. This he achieved in 1988 with the help of Owen Wheeler, GONCE, ex ZS2HZ. He was a member of PEARS since he was licenced and for a large portion of which he also served on the committee and likewise a long-time member of the SARL. Bill was always first to offer his services for JOTA activations, for the VW rallies, at meetings to switch on the urn, and last to leave after the coffee and tea cups had been washed. And, of course, he lived for his Maritime Net activities and his weather report. He was able to share from his home weather station. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

The Council wishes Kelley Heslop and her fiancé all the best with their wedding on Saturday 26 February 2022.

ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR THE SARL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

In terms of Rule 8.9, the SARL Annual Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2021 were uploaded to the SARL website on Friday 21 January 2022 and a SARL Communication was sent to Members on the same date. Electronic Voting will open at 00:01 CAT on Monday 21 February 2022 and will close at 23:59 CAT on Thursday 3 March 2022. Go to the public voting page <http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/ElectronicVoting/Default.aspx> to cast your vote. You need to click on the box "I confirm that I have read and fully understand the Motions listed above" and then sign in with your call sign and password. The voting options are "Yes" or "No" or "Abstain." Follow the instructions on the voting page and submit your vote. You will receive an e-mail confirming that you have voted.

ARISS SCHOOL CONTACT TO BE BROADCAST ON QO-100

Gary, ZS6YI was approached by AMSAT-DL to take their livestream YouTube transmission and transmit it on the QO-100 DATV Satellite. The school contact will take place from 12:04 CAT on Tuesday 22 February and the live stream starts at 11:15 CAT. There will be musical contributions by the school choir of Erasmus-Gymnasium Denzlingen and Goethe-Gymnasium Freiburg. Mr Volker Schmid, Head of Mission Cosmic Kiss of DLR will deliver the welcome address and presentation of the programme. Mrs Bohlen the headmistress of the Erasmus-Gymnasium and Mr Hollemann, the Mayor of Denzlingen will deliver greetings. Matthias, DD1US will do a presentation on the ARISS radio contact with the ARISS radio contact following. The live stream will end at 13:45 CAT.

THE SANDTON ARC POWER HOUR TECH TALK ON 23 FEBRUARY

This one is not to be missed. You have heard about it and some of you have even used it - the QO-100 or the Es'hail Geostationary Satellite. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and tap directly into the expertise of the real gurus who have set up their own QO-100 stations and helped many others do the same. Our special guests will be Gary, ZS6YI, and Adi, ZS6CNC, supported by other active QO-100 DXers who wish to contribute. The Power Hour Talk starts at 19:00 CAT on Wednesday 23 February on the 145,700 MHz repeater and on Echolink via ZS6STN-R.

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A CLANDESTINE RADIO STATION STARTED APPEARING IN LATE DECEMBER ON 3 500 AND 7 000 KHZ, BROADCASTING ON USB

The signal could be heard throughout Europe with programming in both Italian and English, directed against government COVID measures. Daniel Möller, DL3RTL, IARUMS Coordinator from the DARC (German Amateur Radio Club) said he was able to determine the approximate location of these transmissions and the DARC Intruder Monitoring cooperated with the German telecommunications authority (BNetzA) to work with their Italian colleagues to obtain measures that led to the termination of these transmissions. As in the past many months, January saw many high-power over-the-horizon (OTH) radar

intrusions, which can operate on significant segments of the spectrum. Transmissions from broadcasters Radio Ethiopia (ETH) and Voice of Broad Masses (ERI) continued on 7 110 and 7 140 kHz, respectively.

CLUB NEWS

The Cape Town ARC will have its annual Bumper Flea Market/Boot Sale as always on the first Saturday of March. This is one of the largest annual amateur events in Cape Town. The gates will open at 12:00 on Sunday 5 March at the Clubhouse and the club will light braai fires for those who wish to braai and ice-cold refreshments will be on sale. If you are not selling from your car boot, please remember to bring along your own table. Sellers will pay R10 each which automatically enters your name into a lucky prize draw. Come on out and enjoy the event. Everybody is welcome. Please remember that wearing a face mask is required by law and protects your fellow radio amateurs.

We need your help to “find the fox.” Sources advise that the Fox will be transmitting a cryptic code on 144,525 MHz from 09:00 CAT on Sunday 27 February, International Milk Tart Day within a 3 km radius of the Bryanston Pine Forest in Bryanston Johannesburg. Matthew, ZS6MDV will be on the hunt coordination frequency of 145,525 MHz, waiting for your call to announce your participation and hopefully, the success of your quest and for the first time ever, to award a medallion to the First to Find hunter. All are welcome, so will you accept the challenge to find the Fox? Please visit the SARL upcoming events diary forum for further details on the hunts.

CONTEST NEWS

Six logs were received from the fifteen stations who took part in the AWA CW activity day held on 6 February 2022. Congratulations and thanks to all who participated.

1st Mike, ZS6MSW - 18 points QRP

2nd Arthur, ZS5DUV - 14 points

3rd Ludwig, ZS5CN - 13 points

4th Eddie, ZS6BNE - 12 points

5th Phillip ZS1WW - 1 point

The club station ZS0AWA scored 14 points.

Nine logs were received for the PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest held in January. Thank you for taking part and submitting your log. It seems getting the log in is the hard part! There was no rover or digital activity and just about nothing on 4 m.

1st the Cape Radio Group, ZS1CRG – 54 710 points

2nd the McLean Clan – ZS1WW, ZS1ISS and ZS1BMW – 7 629 points

5th PEARS, ZS2PE – 2 357 points

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently various sunspots with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a moderate possibility of C-class flaring and a very slight chance of M-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 39. The 12 to 30 m bands will provide some good DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

- 21 February – Opening of electronic voting for the AFS
- 22 February - ARISS school contact to be broadcast on QO-100
- 23 February – The Sandton ARC Talking Tech Power Hour
- 24 February – The closing date for Club Contest Logs
- 27 February – International Milk Tart Day and the Sandton ARC Fox Hunt
- 5 March – The SARL YL QSL Party and the CTARC Flea Market
- 5 and 6 March – The ARRL International DX Phone Contest
- 6 March – The SARL Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency contest
- 8 March – International Women’s Day
- 10 March – The closing date for YL logs
- 11 March – The closing date for Hamnet logs
- 12 and 13 March – The SARL Field Day and the RSGB Commonwealth Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

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This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Friday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard

on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin written by Dennis Green, ZS4BS/6, proof-read by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA, and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.